

Remarks

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 6, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-30 were pending in this application, of which, claims 1-12 and 30 were withdrawn from consideration. Applicants have amended claims 13, 14, 18-25 and 27 and have cancelled claim 26. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Applicants do not admit that these amendments were necessary as a result of any cited art or Examiner objection.

Claims 20 and 26 are objected to for informalities. Applicants have amended claim 20 and have cancelled claim 26 to obviate the Examiner's objections.

Claims 13-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 13 to remove "main" and to insert "spray formed." Applicants have also removed "substantially non-randomly distributed" and have inserted "a configuration" in claim 13. In claim 19, Applicants have amended the claim to remove "randomly distributed." In claim 20, Applicants have removed "randomly distributed" and have inserted "commingled." Claims 14-29 depend directly or indirectly from claim 13. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection in light of these amendments.

Claims 13, 16-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Covino et al. (*Covino*) or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Covino* in view of the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because *Covino* fails to teach or suggest the pending claims. Amended claim 13 recites "a pseudo-alloy interposing the first and second plurality sprayed metal particles." *Covino* does not teach or suggest this limitation. Further, *Covino* does not teach or suggest a configuration of particles involving two different metals, as claimed. At best, *Covino* applies a single layer of a single metal material. Applicants submit that amended claim 13 is not taught or suggested

by *Covino*. Claims 14-25, 27 and 28 depend directly or indirectly from claim 13 and are patentable for at least this reason. The dependent claims also include additional limitations that render them patentable over *Covino*.

Claims 14-15 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Covino* in view of *Rogers* (hereinafter *Rogers*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the proposed combination (if possible) fails to teach or suggest the pending claims. The Examiner admits that *Covino* fails to teach the use of a “pseudo-alloy (negligible alloying) coating between spray particle and zinc substrate.” (Office Action, 10/06/2006, p. 4). The Examiner opines that *Rogers* teaches the use of a pseudo-alloy coating between a spray particle and a substrate for purposes of effectively providing mechanical interfacial adhesion.

Applicants have amended claim 13 to recite a composite spray formed body portion comprised of a pseudo-alloy interposing the first plurality of sprayed metal particles and a second plurality of sprayed metal particles. Amended claim 13 further recites that “the composite spray formed body portion includes a first surface including a first portion being comprised of the first metal, a second portion being comprised of the second metal and a third portion being comprised of the pseudo-alloy.” These limitations are depicted in at least one embodiment, as shown in Figure 4a of the Applicants’ disclosure. *Covino* and *Rogers*, taken individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest an interposed pseudo-alloy and a first surface, as claimed. To the contrary, at best, *Rogers* teaches a pseudo-alloy between a coating and a substrate wherein the “coating adheres primarily mechanical to the surface with negligible alloying between the coating and surface of the substrate being coated.” (col. 2, ll. 21-23.) *Rogers* does not teach a first surface having a first metal portion, a second metal portion, and pseudo-alloy portion, as recited in amended claim 13. For at least this reason, claim 13 and dependent claims 14-25, 27 and 28 are patentable over the combination of *Covino* and *Rogers*.

The dependent claims also include additional limitations that render them patentable over the combination of *Covino* and *Rogers*. For example, claim 14 recites that “the composite spray formed body portion includes a second surface opposing the first surface and including a first portion being comprised of the first metal and a second portion being comprised of the second metal.” This limitation is depicted in at least one embodiment, as shown in Figure 4a of the Applicants’ disclosure. The Examiner admits that *Covino* does not teach or suggest a pseudo-alloy. At best, the pseudo-alloy disclosed by *Rogers* is a layer sandwiched between spray particles and a zinc substrate. *Rogers* does not teach or suggest the claimed second surface including a first metal portion and a second metal portion. As another example, claim 24 recites that “the third portion of the first surface is interposed between the first and second portions of the first surface.” This limitation is depicted in at least one embodiment, as shown in Figure 4a of the Applicants’ disclosure. The third portion is comprised of a pseudo-alloy. The Examiner admits that *Covino* does not teach or suggest a pseudo-alloy. At best, the pseudo-alloy disclosed by *Rogers* is a layer sandwiched between spray particles and a zinc substrate. *Rogers* does not teach or suggest the claimed first surface including the third portion comprised of the pseudo-alloy interposing the first and second portions, as recited in claim 24.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that the Office Action of October 6, 2006 has been fully responded to. Consequently, in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency associated with the filing of this Paper to the Deposit Account of Applicants' assignee, Ford Global Technologies LLC, Deposit Account No. 06-1510.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew M. Jakubowski, Attorney for Applicant, at Examiner's convenience at (248) 358-4400.

Respectfully submitted,

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